

# RICHMOND PLANET

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## THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

### Colored Troops Under Fire. THE ATTACK UPON SUBIG

#### A Graphic Account--No End to Hostilities.

SUBIG, LUZON, P. I., Feb. 4th, 1900.

The times are still eventful. On Jan. 29th, the troops were ambushed as described in last issue on the 30th. Sergeant Henry's detachment of thirty men guarding a detachment of the Signal Corps was returning here when near San Isidro they saw the enemy in the trenches. Sergt. Henry deployed his men and kept within 200 yards of the trenches and fired several volleys. The insurgents became panic-stricken and fled in disorder, leaving behind them ammunition, cigarettes, and several other things including some Krag-Jorgensen ammunition. The detachment then advanced to San Isidro and bivouaced for the night.

On the 31st, they again began the advance homeward. As they neared the fatal out where the engagement of Jan. 29th took place, they could see the enemy massing along the roadside. Sergt. Henry, arranging his men so as to have a raking cross-fire, opened up pouring in a heavy volley fire. After the enemy had fired a few shots, they again took to their heels; but massed on either side of the cut.

It is customary among the Filipinos never to fire on women, whether they intend to attack a town, the women always leave. So a crowd of women were coming from Subig. Taking advantage of the idea, Sergt. Henry asked Lieut. Stamford, the commanding officer to make the women go back through the cut with them. The permission was granted and as a result the little detachment successfully passed through.

When they had reached the other side, the women disappeared, and the enemy opened fire, but the little sergeant and his little detachment again deployed in cross fire order, raining shot by the flank. He finally reached Subig Pass where they met K Company coming to the rescue.

#### FIRING HEARD.

The firing could be plainly heard and K Company immediately went out to reinforce them but met them in the Subig Pass two miles away, and all returned. When firing in Subig was heard at the column. The little band was saved only through the strategy and diligence of Sergt. Henry to come miles through the enemy's country fighting his way home with the loss of a bullet, and all of which had to be deserted in the cut and were recovered later by K and L Companies, excepting the one mentioned above.

Corporal Wm. Crawford, Co. K, 25th Infantry, prominent as a base ball player and leader of the Imperial Quartette died at the Angeles field hospital last Monday. He was wearing a bolo in a game at Angeles when he fell sticking the bolo in his groin, severing the artery. Owing to inability to keep still, caused by the terrible pain, it is said he never stopped bleeding. He was a protégé of the late Lieut. Schenck and strange to say both died the same day.

All of the wounded are much better and improving rapidly.

RICHIE B. LEMUS, Co. K, 25th Inf.

SUBIG, LUZON, P. I., Feb. 9, 1900.

Nine seems to be a part of the 25th. It was on the 9th of October that we were attacked at La Loma. It was on the 19th of November, we marched away from O'Donnell, the best movement of the campaign from a modern military standpoint. It was on the 29th that our boys were ambushed and killed, leaving Mt. Arrayat, the only movement of our campaign that didn't happen on the 9th, 19th or 29th. The wily insurgents thought he would follow us up with the 9th.

Since the fatal 29th of January and the 1st of February, when Sergeant Henry safely eluded them, no scouting parties have been sent out. So the insurgents conceived the idea that we were afraid and concluded to attack us. Subig is a very bad place to defend. It sits in a hollow surrounded by hills. The right flank being only 75 yards from Company K's quarters, so a small gunboat is continually kept here to shell the hills.

On Wednesday, the President of Castellan (mayor) came in saving there were 1000 insurgents there and they were preparing to move on Subig. All precautions were taken and Sergt. Wil-

liams of Company L, despatched in a canoe to Oungupoo, the naval station after the gunboat.

#### SHELLED THE HILLS.

She arrived about 10 P. M., and shelled the hills, so Mr. Gage didn't come that night. Last night the largest gunboat came in early and anchored, putting out her lights. About two o'clock, a trumpet was heard in the hills. Those who were awake and admiring its beautiful notes as it flowed on the still night-air, said the best note had barely died away when a volley of Mausers crashed out and the attack on Subig had begun as usual on the 9th. When I awoke I could hear explosive bullets, cracking as they exploded which sounded like a Mauser when you pull the trigger as they were exploding near our quarters. It sounded like the Mausers were right on us. Every one made a rush for the trenches but the fire was so hot we couldn't make it. Another rush and into the trenches. "To your places!" shouted the steady Henry. The gunboat opened up, firing several shells apparently without effect. For an hour this condition of affairs existed.

Finally, the gunboat opened up a triple combination firing shells, dynamite and 600 cartridges a minute from her rapid firing gun.

#### THAT RAIN OF STEEL.

The insurgents rattled, maimed and killed by the terrific rain of steel exposed themselves to three volleys from Henry's section which put them on the run. They blew their trumpets and disappeared as suddenly as they had come.

Volley firing was indulged in at intervals during the night. At daybreak the gunboat again shelled the hills and the insurgents departed, sadder, but wiser men. The insurgents' officers could be plainly heard giving their commands. All is quiet now excepting a heavy bombardment going on down the coast. There was no casualties on our side and we have not yet found out the insurgent loss.

RICHIE B. LEMUS, Company K, 25th Inf.

## WEST END NOTES,

An Honor to this Section.

REV. M. B. HUCLESS INSTALLED.

Personals and Briefs.



All of our churches held most excellent services last Sunday.

Rev. Dr. Lewis preached a strong, soul-stirring sermon at 5th Church at 8:30.

The spirit of revival is taking possession of our people and a few converts are the fruits of their labors.

Mrs. M. B. Hucless who accompanied her husband to Suffolk on the occasion

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE.

## JUDGE GOODWYN CHARGES THE GRAND JURY.

### He Rises to the Dignity of the Situation

#### A Statement of Great Principles--White Men are Both Deaf and Dumb.

NO INDICTMENTS FOUND--THE LYNCHERS JUBILANT.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRAND JURY: You have been legally and regularly selected and drawn as the grand jurors to attend the April term, 1900, of the County Court of Greenesville.

You have taken an oath "To diligently inquire and true present make of all such matters as may be given you in charge or come to your knowledge touching the present service; you shall present no person through ill-will or prejudice, nor leave any unpresented through fear or favor, but in all of your presentments you shall present the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." It is your sworn duty to inquire of and present all felonies, misdemeanors, and violations of the penal laws committed within the jurisdiction of this county.

#### SEVEN MUST CONCUR.

At least seven of your body must concur in finding or making an indictment or presentment, and you are further empowered to make a presentment or find an indictment upon the information of two or more of your own body, and when a presentment or indictment is so made or found, or on the testimony of witnesses called on by you or sent to you by the Court, the names of any of your body giving the information or of the witnesses shall be written at the foot of the presentment or indictment. The law further directs that the Commissioner of the Revenue, Sheriff, constables, and other officers shall give information of the violation of any penal law to the Attorney for the Commonwealth, who shall institute and prosecute all such cases, and he shall issue a summons for any witness he thinks material to give evidence before the court or grand jury.

#### A PECULIAR WARNING.

In calling your attention to the above provisions of our statute, which are the mandates of the law, you must let no fear of animosity or hostile acts on the part of those against whom accusations are brought deter you from the faithful discharge of your duty. The practice of punishing men by unauthorized persons, without due process of law, and in violation of the right of the proper legal authorities to bring offenders to trial, cannot be too strongly condemned. It is needless for me to tell you of the harrowing scenes that occurred here on Saturday, March 24, 1900, when a mob of lynchers organized in this court-house, "the Temple of Justice," and from the very seats you now occupy marched in united phalanx, with steady steps, to the jail, fifty feet distant, and there, with cries of an Athenian rabble or a Roman mob, murderously and violently lynched two human beings under the care and protection of the laws of Virginia, in the glare of a noonday's sun, and in the midst of horror-stricken women and children.

#### THAT SACRED OATH.

You are charged to investigate this horrible affair under your sacred oath as grand jurors. As you know the jury system has clustered around it the traditions of centuries, its importance as a safeguard of civil liberty has caused it to be scrupulously maintained to the present day. It stands between the violators of the law and the mob. It is the conservator of the peace. It is the protector of all human rights, and I feel you will not bring reproach upon it by swerving from your duty. The responsibility now rests with you and your consciences, and to-day there is no doubt expressed that you will honestly and impartially discharge that duty, that the law will be faithfully executed and that crime will triumph over virtue.

This doubt should be dispelled by the execution of justice and upholding the supremacy of the law, remembering that when the Colony of Virginia was first settled by emigrants from Great Britain, they brought with them such laws as were necessary to restrain the lawless and to protect the weak, and to-day we have rights and privileges as members of society which are regulated by law, and the faithful discharge of the duties of the officers of the law should be so regulated as to protect and make the law supreme and not subservient to the will of an angry mob.

#### THE LAW IS STRONG.

The law is strong, and for it to remain so you are bound to give it strength. It is your duty to inquire into the conduct of any of the officers of the court during the time mob law existed in the town of Emporia, and to present such facts as should be legally investigated. The court is open to you to render all the aid and service in its power to reach the foundation of this affair.

It is my purpose to have every man known to the court, who can give any information, summoned before your body. The officers of the law of this county shall appear before you and give all evidence they may have touching this case, and every means shall be exhausted to bring the transgressors of the law to justice, not to avenge an individual wrong, but to protect the dearest rights of society, prevent the violation of the supreme law of the land, and not place mob law superior to the civil law, rendering the civil authorities powerless to preserve law and order.

#### THE FINAL CHARGE.

I now charge you, as guardians of public freedom, to protect and uphold the dignity of the law, and not allow it to be thus willfully trampled upon. If such a state of affairs shall exist and such acts go unpunished, what man's property, character, or life will be secure? The prevention of crime is the first great object and cause of the institution and infliction of punishment. The higher the grade of crime, the more necessary to the happiness and safety of society is the certainty of the infliction of punishment in proportion to the magnitude of the offense committed.

Burke says: "Justice is itself the great standing policy of civil society." We have now reached a period when every one who is in favor of putting a check to a reckless violation of the law should emphasize his earnestness by permitting no guilty violator of the law to escape punishment, and we must learn to bow to the superior power of the law, so defiantly transgressed by the angry lynchers on March 24th in this county to accomplish their nefarious purposes.

#### A HUMAN LIFE TOO DEAR.

The life of a human being is too dear to be taken, except as the law directs; it puts life too much at the mercy of those who seek to destroy it, and a fearful retribution awaits those who take upon their souls a human life, without law and without mercy. No man is to be his own avenger; the law in every case affords a remedy, and he must seek it; if not, bear his lot with patience, remembering that vengeance belongs to the Most High, and they who take the dispensation of punishment in their own hands do it at their peril, and instead of punishment, they execute vengeance untempered with mercy.

I call upon you in the name of your country, and in the name of the living God, Whose eternal justice you are now about to administer, to discharge your duty without fear, prejudice, or passion, remembering you are bound by the most sacred oaths and obligations.

In the face of this charge, the Grand Jury failed to find an indictment against the men for murder; but brought in one against a man charged with house-breaking.

## A WHITE LADY SPEAKS AGAIN.

### The Conviction of Benjamin--The Boy in Alexandria.

A PATHETIC STATEMENT--THE SUFFERINGS OF THE COLORED PEOPLE--A TELLING PLEA BY THIS ADVOCATE OF JUSTICE.

#### MR. EDITOR:

The account you give of the trial and conviction of Frank Benjamin for alleged criminal assault on a white woman at Hampton, Virginia, calls to mind a similar case, that of the colored boy, Albert Hawkins, who, in 1898, was convicted and sentenced to be hung for an attempted criminal assault on a little school girl. I remember well the face of this boy who after escaping the fury of the mob, was safely lodged in a dark cell in the jail at Alexandria. I visited him a few hours after he was placed there and was surprised to find, not a man with the face of a demon as the daily papers pictured him to be, but an apparently harmless boy, fifteen years of age. I spent six days in Virginia including the time I was at the trial, investigating the case. I privately questioned the witnesses for the defense, including the little girl herself, and I failed to find any evidence whatever that there had been any attempt at rape. Neither was her dress torn nor was she rescued by her brother-in-law.

The girl denied being injured in any way. The story told in the papers was almost wholly false from beginning to end. But there were persons of my own race who thrived for his blood. They were to be seen both outside and inside the court room.

It would be impossible to give a correct idea of the hatred manifested toward that poor boy during the trial. All the evidence brought out in the trial to prove his innocence went for nothing. According to the law of Virginia he must die; and so the sentence of death was passed upon him not forty-eight hours after the alleged crime was committed.

As many will remember the boy was granted a new trial which resulted in his being sent to the penitentiary for eighteen years. His name still helps to swell the list of "colored boys and girls," said to be three thousand "rotten" in the prison of Virginia and compelled to associate with the vilest and most degraded adults.

When Frank Benjamin is hung his name will, undoubtedly, add one more to the list of judicial murders. As you know, under existing conditions the whites alone are responsible for every such murder, and they are committing under the civil law or under lynch law.

As I picked up the Monday morning paper of March 19th my eyes fell on these words,

#### LYNCHING OF JOHN BAILEY.

Then followed a sickening account of the work of a mob in Marietta, Georgia. The victim of their wrath was a Negro accused of a criminal assault on a white woman. The man, who had been taken to the center of the court house yard in the heart of the city, and fifty shots fired at him, leaving him for dead on the spot where he fell. He died later in the day.

Although particulars were given of the lynching of this man, who had received no trial, no allusion whatever was made to the sufferings he endured from one o'clock Sunday morning until "later in the day" when death came to his relief.

With a heart too sick to find expression in words I turned to the page containing the reports of secessions; and there, sandwiched in between two secessions was this.

#### A YOUNG NEGRO LYNCHED.

Then followed another sickening account of the lynching of another colored man for attempted criminal assault on a white girl in Alabama. He too was shot to death on Sunday by a crowd of white men whose thirst for blood, impelled them to send this unfortunate man, without even the shadow of a trial, into the presence of his Maker.

A day later a scene was enacted which was "exceptionally barbarous." The headlines giving publicity to the crime were these:

#### A GIRL BURNED AT THE STAKE.

A heart-rending account is then given of the torturing and then burning of a young white girl near Jefferson, S. C. She was about nineteen and had some Indian blood in her veins. She was found "groaning on the ground, every particle of clothing burned away and blood flowing from many wounds. Her body and limbs had been gashed with knives, some of the slashes being more than a foot long, and had been inflicted merely to torture her. Then the clothing was set ablaze and the men who had been keeping her prisoner in the woods for twenty-four hours, set her at liberty." She died soon after being found. The cause of the crime was jealousy.

Two days later, the papers gave an account of another tragedy which had occurred on Saturday night, March

17th. The victim was George Ritter, colored, who lived near Carthage, N. C. He was taken from his home by masked men, and after he had been mutilated, he was shot and hung up to a tree. He was suspected of having reported these men to Government officials and because of this he was "tortured and murdered."

To complete the week's list of the butcheries of untried and perhaps innocent men, a Negro named Oeston who was "suspected" of having committed murder, was taken from the jail at Emporia, Va., swung to a tree and his body riddled with bullets. The same day and at the same town a white man named Brandt O'Grady, was lynched for the crime of theft.

I have given notice of these cold-blooded murders in the order in which they appeared in our daily papers, all having occurred within the past week. All the victims, with two exceptions, were colored persons.

Now, I question if any one of these men, who were mercilessly shot to death for "attempted criminal assaults," was guilty; and my failure to believe is because of what I have witnessed in court rooms and know of the race feeling and hatred of some of the Southern whites.

What think you would be the result, if some day these should come to consider that they had better stop for a while and turn their attention from the "black brute" to those of the white and bring to mind historical facts like the following:

The Census for 1850 shows there were then in Virginia over forty-four thousand mulatto slaves that had escaped the Southern market. It is not an open secret just how all these came by their white blood.

A few years previous to the civil war a correspondent of the "Free Presbyterian" in writing from Augusta County, Virginia, gave a description of a "Sale of Slaves." The account is so sickening that I cannot reproduce it here. The writer concluded by saying, "I would rather bury every friend I have than see them put on the Auction block."

It is too notorious that many have sold their own flesh and blood. In fact, not only sell their own daughters, but the children of these daughters, and of which they are also, not infrequently, their fathers.

General John H. Eaton of Washington, said of these white slaves: "How frequently have I seen weeping mothers leading guileless infants to the sales with as deep anguish as if they had led them to the slaughter house. When I see these innocents practiced upon because whose complexion and blood bear kindred to my own, I curse the perpetrators and weep over the wretched victims of their rapacity."

Henry Berry, a wealthy slaveholder of J. H. Brown Co., speaking of slaves in a speech before the Va. House of Delegates said: "Pass an act as you will to keep these unfortunate creatures in ignorance, it is in vain, unless you extinguish that spark of intellect which God has given them."

"Sir, we have, as far as possible, closed every avenue by which light might enter their minds; we have only to go one step farther--to extinguish the capacity to see the light--and our work would be accomplished; they would then be reduced below the level of the beasts of the field."

"and I am not certain that we would not do it if we could find out the necessary process."

Well might Jefferson say: "I tremble for my country when I remember that God is just."

CLARISSA OLDS KEENE.

March 24, 1900.

#### A Pleasant Surprise.

Mrs. Mary Patterson, who has been confined to her home, No. 1100 St. John St., was most pleasantly surprised on Friday night, March 23rd, 1900, by many of her friends under the leadership of Mrs. Richard Jackson.

The party brought with them a most little purse of money, beside many packages containing the necessities of life and delicacies of the season. We are sorry we failed to get all of the names of the ladies who made up the surprise party. Mrs. Patterson and her family are very thankful to all who took a part and hope they may call again.

HARRIS--SMITH--The parlors of Rev. Ford's of Ashland, Va., were beautifully lighted up to welcome friends and acquaintances to witness the marriage of Miss Mary Love Smith of Ashland, Va. to Mr. William Harris of this city last Wednesday evening, March 21st, 1900. We wish them a bright and happy future.